



2014/2015 Education Programs

Reading, Writing, and a Revolution!

The Interpretation and Education Team at Valley Forge National Historical Park is pleased to announce our 2014-15 education programs and curriculum materials for teachers. We invite you to take advantage of our program offerings and check back in the spring for professional development opportunities. All education programs are designed for 3rd through 12th grade students and are free of charge.

Key dates:

Registration Season

Applications for all programs must be submitted by March 6, 2015

Field Trip Season

October - May Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday

Home School Days

October 8 and 29, 2014 These dates are reserved for Home School Days and
May 13, 2015 are unavailable for field trips or classroom programs.

Teachers Institute

July 2015 Dates to be announced in Spring 2015

Each summer during the month of July, Valley Forge and Independence National Historical Parks coordinate a multi-day workshop for teachers, where they experience place-based learning as they tour these historic sites. These workshops provide teachers with primary source materials, instructional strategies, and historical content to enrich teaching the American Revolution.

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Visit our website and gain access to:

- Program application forms
- Lesson Plans
- Park maps and other trip planning materials
- Park alerts and new professional development opportunities

nps.gov/vafo/forteachers



2014/2015 Education Programs

Field Trips to Valley Forge

October - May: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday

Whether you plan your own trip entirely or request a ranger-led program, there are many great ways to explore, learn, and enjoy Valley Forge National Historical Park. Please be aware that ranger-led programs are taken on a first come first served basis and will be considered based on dates requested and ranger availability. Home school students may take advantage of our semi-annual Home School Days, where students rotate through multiple stations for a unique hands-on learning experience. All education programs are offered free of charge.

Soldier Life

Grades 3-12

1 hour 30 minutes

Class Size: 50 maximum/15 minimum*

Students will learn about the life of the soldier at Valley Forge. Conducted by park rangers dressed in period clothing, this program emphasizes how the men and women of the Continental Army persevered through the hardships of the winter encampment and how the soldiers trained to become an effective force that eventually won the fight for independence. The program includes a march with a park ranger to the Muhlenberg Brigade for a living history demonstration.

Soldier Life with additional Washington's Leadership Learning Experience

Grades 3-12

2 hours (plus approx. 15 min driving time)

Class Size: 50 maximum/15 minimum*

Extend your learning and take full advantage of your field trip to the park by adding a 30-minute guided tour of the Washington's Headquarters complex to learn about the General's unique leadership qualities that kept the American Revolution alive. A park ranger will meet your group at the Valley Forge Train Station for a guided tour of Washington's lifeguard huts, the Houdon statue of Washington, and the historic house that served as Washington's command center and George and Martha's residence during the winter encampment.

As an extension of "Soldier Life" your students may participate in "Washington's Leadership" program at either 11:45 a.m. or 12:30 p.m., which allows you to choose from several other options to best complement your day. You may proceed directly to the Train Station for your tour or you may break first for lunch at one of the park's picnic areas, explore the Visitor Center or Train Station exhibits, or visit another park site such as the National Memorial Arch.

*Exceptions to the class size requirements may be granted to special needs classes

View online: <http://www.nps.gov/vafo/forteachers/classrooms/fieldtrips.htm>



2014/2015 Education Programs

Home School Days

Wednesdays, October 8 and 29, 2014

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Home School students are invited to visit Valley Forge for a unique educational experience. Multiple interactive learning stations encourage students to explore topics such as 18th century life, the American Revolution, and natural resources. Our park rangers and dedicated volunteers bring education to life through special programs and hands-on activities designed for school-aged children. **The October 29th event will be a repeat of October 8th. The May 13th event will differ from the October events.**

Registration is required for this program to determine staff requirements and applications must be submitted **at least 2 weeks** in advance of the program. Registration for each program will be capped at 350 students and booked on a first come first serve basis.

Registered students will be assigned a program time (10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., or 1 p.m.) and a brigade color (red, white, or blue) for their march with a soldier. **Families who wish to be placed in the same brigade should register together on the same application.**

Please arrive at the Meeting Room, formerly the Education Center, 15 minutes prior to your program time to check-in and pick up your registration packet. A park ranger in continental uniform will meet each group outside of the Meeting Room and march together to the Muhlenberg Brigade huts.

Students can expect the full program to last an hour and a half. Additional educational opportunities, such as a visit to Washington's Headquarters, may add 30-60 minutes to your day, please plan accordingly. We recommend that you dress appropriately for outdoor weather and wear sturdy shoes. **In case of rain, programs will take place in the Meeting Room and Park Theater.**

This program is designed for Home School Students only. To prevent overcrowding on the day of the event, we ask that charter, virtual, and/or traditional schools register for our other ranger-led education programs during the academic year, October-May, rather than register for Home School Day.

View online: <http://www.nps.gov/vafo/forteachers/classrooms/homeschooldays.htm>

Fast Facts

- Applications are due 2 weeks prior to program date
- Registration is capped at 350 students per program and booked on a first come first served basis
- Core program lasts 90 minutes
- 5 activity stations at the Muhlenberg Brigade teach about 18th century life
- Pack a picnic lunch or snacks
- Activities take place outdoors
- Parents can register together on the same application



2014/2015 Education Programs

Curriculum Materials

Available online

Surviving and Thriving in the Winter of 1777

Six months as a Continental Soldier

Prepared by Teacher-Ranger-Teacher, Cam Hopkins

Why did General George Washington choose Valley Forge as the site for the Army's winter encampment? This unit focuses on examining the choices made by the leader of the Continental Army as he determined where to place his army in 1777. The objective of the curriculum unit is for students to engage the history of the Continental Army's encampment at Valley Forge through active historical learning. While the curriculum material is designed with a middle school level focus (grades 5-8), educators may adapt it to suit the needs of elementary or high school learners.

Surviving and Thriving is broken into seven lesson plans. A class needn't complete every lesson in the unit, though some lessons do refer to one another and are better done in sequence. However, each lesson comes with its own set of objectives and resources. Throughout the unit, students will evaluate and understand the winter encampment site at Valley Forge (1777-78) by taking part in the life of a member of the Continental Army as it marched into Valley Forge, was challenged by multiple elements, and then potentially exited to continue the war for independence against the British.

Reflections of African American Patriots at Valley Forge

Prepared by Teacher-Ranger-Teacher, Renee Jacobs

How does broadening our perspectives to include missing points of view enhance learning about history? What does analysis of the little known story of black patriots, like Salem Poor, reveal about the perspectives and challenges of the soldiers during the Revolutionary War? How does analysis of black patriots contribute to the body of well-known information about the Revolutionary War? There are many little known stories in our nation's history. We are challenged to uncover them and to analyze their significance to our nation and to us as individuals.

Students will examine the presence of African American soldiers in the Revolutionary War, explore possible perspectives of key figures of that time, and summarize information from a variety of sources on a Black patriot by writing a focused response to an open ended question and participating in class discussions. Students will be evaluated through class discussions and written activities.

View online: <http://www.nps.gov/vafo/forteachers/classrooms/curriculummaterials.htm>



2014/2015 Education Programs

Requesting Your Education Program

Programs are reserved on a first come first served basis and will be considered based on dates requested and ranger availability. Decisions will be made within one week after the submission of the application. You will receive a completed form with the reserved date and time as your confirmation.

Application Deadlines:

- Field trip applications must be submitted at **least 3 weeks** prior to your requested program date.
- Home School Day applications must be submitted at **least 2 weeks** prior to your requested program date.
- **Applications for all programs must be submitted by March 6, 2015.**

Directions for filling out your application from the park's website:

- Download the Reservation Request Form (PDF file) and save the form to your computer (click on the link to open, then save)
- Print the form and fill out all fields
- Scan the completed form and email as an attachment to vafo_education@nps.gov or
- Fax the completed form to 610-783-1038

Questions about filling out or submitting the form or additional logistical/programmatic questions please call 610-783-1066. Please leave a detailed message with your question(s) and your contact information and we will promptly respond.

To download the reservation request form, your computer will need to have a version of Adobe Reader 8, or newer, installed. You can upgrade to the latest version of Adobe Reader for free from <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
For further support, go to <http://helpx.adobe.com/reader.html>

Day of Your Education Program

For Field Trips

Groups should arrive at the front of the Visitor Center at 9:45 a.m. to register your group at the front desk for your 10:00 a.m. program. Please bring a copy of your confirmation with you. Your program may be cancelled if you arrive 15 minutes late. Please call 610-783-1099 if you will be delayed.

For Home School Day

Please arrive at the Meeting Room, formerly the Education Center, 15 minutes prior to your program time to check-in and pick up your registration packet. A park ranger in continental uniform will meet each group outside of the Meeting Room and march together to the Muhlenberg Brigade huts.



Educational books, videos and games are available from The Encampment Store, located on the first floor of the Visitor Center and online at: www.encampmentstore.org



2014/2015 Education Programs

Eating Lunch in the Park

If your group is planning to visit Valley Forge over the lunch hour we suggest packing a picnic lunch, as there are no full-service concessions on the premises or indoor dining facilities.

Wayne's Woods Picnic Area

This picnic area is ideal for the majority of park programs. It is located along South Outer Line Drive, along The Encampment Tour route, and on your way from the Muhlenberg Brigade to Washington's Headquarters. In addition to numerous picnic tables and a restroom facility, the picnic grounds open up to a large mown field with the National Memorial Arch in the background.

Open Year-Round

Varnum's Picnic Area

Located off of Route 23, Varnum's Picnic Area sits between the Visitor Center and Washington's Headquarters. This picnic area is also in close proximity to the von Steuben Statue and Varnum's Quarters, tour stop 8 on The Encampment Tour, which overlooks the Grand Parade.

Open Seasonally: April 1 - October 31

Please remember to pack out what you pack in!

More about the park's designated picnic areas, rules and regulations visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/vafo/planyourvisit/eatingsleeping.htm>

Directions

Park Address

1400 North Outer Line Drive
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Closest Intersection to the Visitor Center

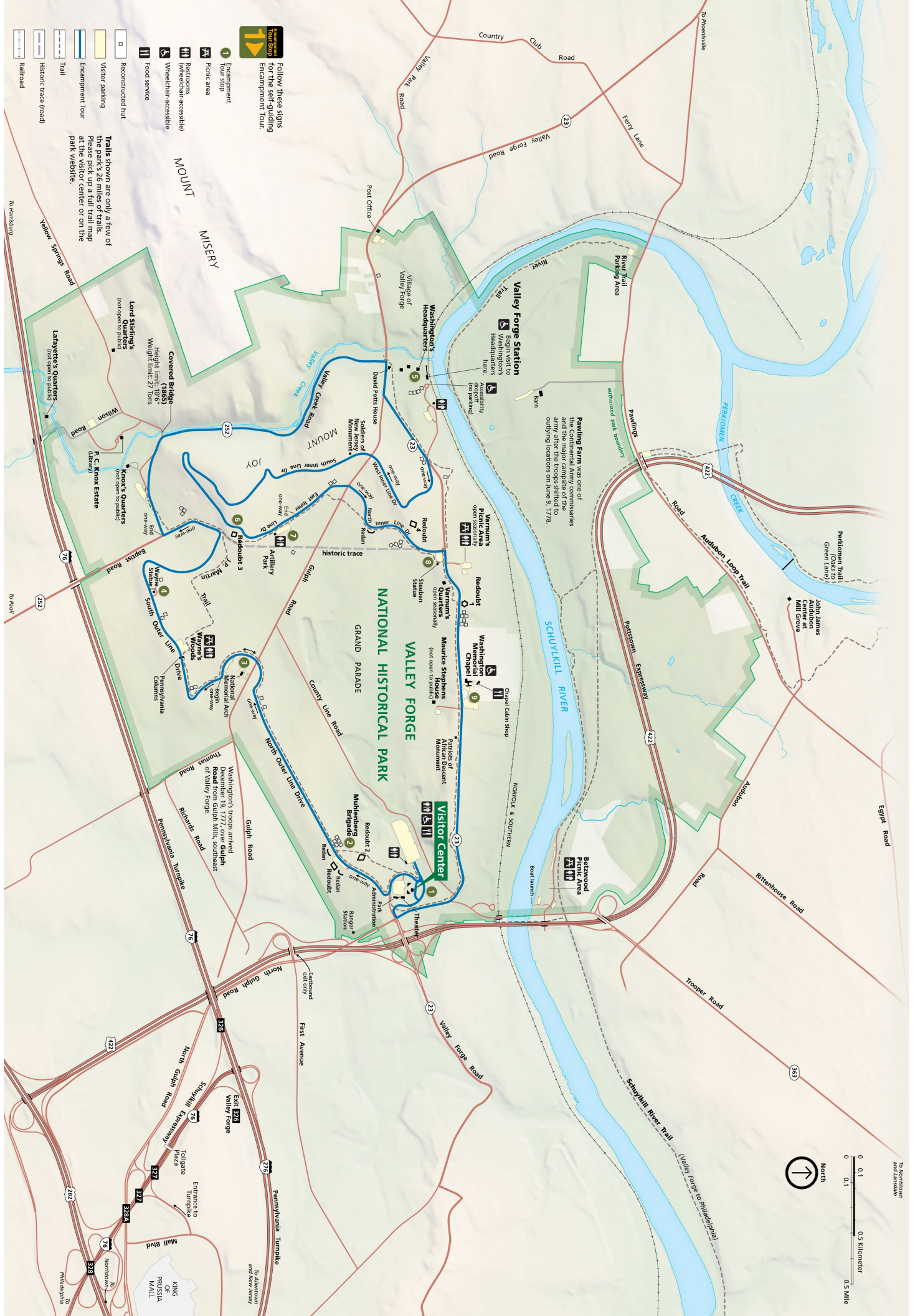
Pennsylvania Route 23 and North Gulph Road

GPS Coordinates

N 40° 6.109 W 75° 25.342

Additional step-by-step directions can be found on the park's website at:

<http://www.nps.gov/vafo/planyourvisit/directions.htm>





2014/2015 Field Trip Application

Applications must be submitted at least 3 weeks in advance of the requested program date(s).

Applications for all programs must be submitted by March 6, 2015.

E-mail: vafo_education@nps.gov

Fax: 610-783-1038

School Name:

School Address:

City:

State:

Zip code:

Grade Level:

Number of Chaperones:

Number of Students:

Number of Buses:

Teacher Contact Information:

Name

School Phone

Cell Phone

Email

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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Field Trip Season

October through May

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday

Program Requested:

Soldier Life

Soldier Life with Washington's Leadership program

Program Start Time

☐ 10:00 AM

☐ 10:00 AM

Select time for the Washington's
Leadership program:

☐ 11:45 AM

☐ 12:30 PM

Date Requested: 1st choice

2nd choice

Comments:

Program Confirmation *To be completed by NPS*

Program Start Time is 10:00 AM

Date of Program:

Washington's Leadership

Program Time:

Groups should arrive at the front of the Visitor Center at 9:45 a.m. to register your group at the front desk for your 10:00 a.m. program. Please bring a copy of your confirmation with you. Your program may be cancelled if you arrive 15 minutes late. Please call 610-783-1099 if you will be delayed.

***Applications will be considered based on dates requested and ranger availability.
Decisions will be made within one week after the submission of the application.***



2014/2015 Home School Day Application

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Applications must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance of the program requested:

E-mail: vafo_education@nps.gov or **Fax:** 610-783-1038

Registration is required for these programs to determine staff requirements.

Each program will be capped at 350 students. **The October 29th event will be a repeat of October 8th.**

Registration deadlines:

~~October 8, 2014~~ — Must register by September 24, 2014

~~October 29, 2014~~ — Must register by October 15, 2014 —

May 13, 2015 Must register by April 29, 2015

This program is designed for Home School Students only. To prevent overcrowding on the day of the event, we ask that charter, virtual, and/or traditional schools register for our other ranger-led education programs during the academic year, October-May, rather than register for Home School Day.

Families who wish to be placed in the same brigade should register together on this form.*

Parent/Teacher Name(s):

Mailing Address:

***Please list the last name of each family participating below.**

City:

State:

Zip code:

Primary Phone:

Email:

Secondary Phone:

Student Grade(s):

Number of Students:

Number of Chaperones:

Program Requesting (check one):

☐ ~~October 8, 2014~~

☐ ~~October 29, 2014~~

☐ May 13, 2015

Program Confirmation *To be completed by NPS*

Program Date:

Program Time:

Brigade Color:

Please arrive at the Meeting Room, formerly the Education Center, 15 minutes prior to your program time to check-in and pick up your registration packet. A park ranger in continental uniform will meet each group outside of the Meeting Room and march together to the Muhlenberg Brigade huts. In case of rain, programs will take place in the Meeting Room and Park Theater.

Questions about filling out or submitting the form or additional logistical/programmatic questions please call 610-783-1066. Please leave a detailed message with your question(s) and your contact information and we will promptly respond.